



### Tears for Lebanon

At times, tears have been the only way Southern Baptist missionaries could vent their emotions over being uprooted from Lebanon by a U.S. government order barring Americans from the country. Gary White's tears came during an initial meeting March 7 of the 24 missionaries formerly stationed in Lebanon. White and his wife, Jerree, right, had been in Lebanon since mid-1985. In the background are missionaries Emmett Barnes and Vivian Trimble, who is Mrs. White's mother. (BP) PHOTO By Joanna Pinneo



### Tears in Jones County

The occupants of this house in Jones County survived the storm that tore up the houses, even though they were inside of it. The twisted metal in the foreground is what remained of a mobile home after the storm.

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, March 19, 1987

Published Since 1877

## Missionaries leave Lebanon, but their hearts remain

By Art Toalston

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP) — Militiamen with machine guns watched as seven Southern Baptist missionaries and several dozen Lebanese carefully stepped off a shuttle bus.

The travelers scurried through the evening rain, stepped around mud puddles and walked up an unsteady plank into the boat in East Beirut's port.

Passports in hand, the missionaries waited for their cabins, resolved to a night on stormy seas March 5. Before long, two would become seasick.

Seasickness, however, would be minor compared to what was troubling them. They were moving from one world to another.

Behind them was a war-torn land where a stray artillery shell or bullet could have ended any of their lives. It also was a land where U.S. citizens, by government order, could no longer live.

Ahead of the missionaries was the pleasant seaside city of Larnaca on the island of Cyprus, the place where relatives and friends in the United States could count on reliable telephone service to ask, "Are you all right?"

Given the chance, the missionaries would have chosen Lebanon.

In that world, they made deep friendships by weathering the war. "It's been overwhelming to see the love the Lebanese have expressed for us" since the U.S. order was announced in late January, said Leola Ragland, an Oklahoman who has worked 33 years as a missionary in Lebanon.

As of March 7, all 24 missionaries and eight children formerly in Lebanon were in Cyprus, the last couple having come out by boat the night of March 6. They wondered what relatives and friends in the United States thought of their pleas to remain in Lebanon.

"I don't know what people in the U.S. are seeing on television or reading in the newspapers," commented Pete Dunn, an Alabamian who has been a missionary in Lebanon since 1968. He has received letters asking, "Why are you still there?"

"The perspective of people outside the country is so different from our perspective. We live among the people. We eat Lebanese food. We cry with them when they hurt. We go to the hospital and visit their sick. We go

to the weddings. And they come to us.

"I respect my government," Dunn added. "Maybe they are looking at other factors I'm not exposed to. But right now, I believe the order was unwarranted."

"I can't imagine not coming back to Lebanon" to continue working side by side with the country's Baptists, said Dunn's wife, Pat, also from Alabama.

"We were right on the threshold of launching Baptist TV programs in Arabic," said Dunn, who directs the Baptist Center for Mass Communications, "and here we are on a boat going to Cyprus."

"We're leaving Lebanon as half-people," said Ragland.

Frances Fuller of Arkansas, who has spent 16 years of her 23-year missionary career as a missionary in Lebanon, cited the relative security of East Beirut and neighboring towns. "We feel like we could say, 'Mr. Reagan, come and visit us. Meet our neighbors. And then think about (the order).'"

"It's not that there isn't danger," she acknowledged. "We thought at times we might die for being in Lebanon."

However, for Fuller, who directs the Arab Baptist Publication Center, the risk is worth taking to be obedient to God, to do the job God chose her to do and to be with the people for whom he has given her a great love.

"Never in any period of my life have I ever been happier" than in recent years in Lebanon, she said. "I feel like my roots are here. I want to come back as quickly as possible."

Fuller said she struggled with the principle of obeying God rather than men. "I went through a time of thinking, 'If we obey this (order), it's because we don't want to pay the price of making God the highest authority over our lives.' I felt I was going to get on this boat feeling that I had done something wrong."

She finally decided to obey the order, not wanting her protest to make it difficult for other missionaries later to return to Lebanon.

"We're leaving Lebanon as half-people," said Jim Ragland, also from Oklahoma, who directed Beirut Baptist School in West Beirut. "We feel we have left our hearts behind in the places where we have lived and worked."

"This is home for us," Mrs. Ragland said. "We know Lebanon probably better than we know America." Their four children are sad also, she said, because Lebanon is the only home they have ever known. All of them are married now, and they had hoped to bring their spouses to Lebanon some day.

When news of the order came, Ragland said, he and his wife sat across the table from each other and had their devotional together. They realized that something very tragic was about to take place in their lives, he said.

"We just sat there and wept together."

Later, after they had left the school, Mrs. Ragland recounted, "Jim looked back toward West Beirut. It was raining and he said, 'I always dread rainy days like this, because it's so difficult to take care of the children.' Then, all of a sudden, we realized we weren't over there to do it."

"It has been a month of not really knowing where we are," she said.

For more than three weeks they said goodbyes to Lebanese friends and co-workers, both Christians and Muslims. It was an emotional challenge, Ragland said. "How do you walk away from somebody you've known for 30 years?" he asked, weeping.

"We just sat there and wept together."

With school employees, "we've seen sad days and happy days," he said.

"They've been so wonderful all these years to overlook our mistakes, to come in when the going was tough, to stand up for us when it would have been easy just to fade into the background. They were right there beside us."

Like the other missionaries, the Raglands do not understand why the State Department has banned Americans from Lebanon. "If it's to protect us, we don't want it," Ragland said. "We didn't expect it when we came out. We never sought their help during these years."

"Lebanon is really up against the ropes (now)," Ragland said. "The country needs us. The Lebanese need our school, our radio ministries, the books that we're writing."

## Baptist Men's Conference

Saturday, March 21, 1987 Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee



# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## The Jones tornado

On Feb. 28 a tornado struck parts of rural Jones County and left a path of death, misery, destruction, and heartache. Last week, after much of the debris had been cleared away and even some reconstruction had begun, Jones Association Director of Missions Maurice Flowers took me on a tour of the devastated area. It still was an awesome sight.

I have seen tornado damage before. I saw the destruction caused by one in Waco, Texas, when more than 160 people were killed, most of them in one department store. From a 16th story window in downtown Dallas, I watched one go across West Dallas. I was caught in one since I have been in Mississippi. But I have never seen such damage since I left the battlefield in Europe as I saw in Jones County.

Flowers told me that this tornado left a path 20 miles long and 1½ miles wide. With winds rotating at more than 200 miles an hour, it moved along its path at 55 miles an hour. It was fearsome.

Houses were crumpled like match sticks. Mobile homes exploded into

rubble. The steel girders of mobile homes were twisted into contorted shapes. One would have expected that more than seven people would have died in such a fury of nature.

As we drove along we saw home owners beginning the sad task of looking for whatever was left that could be salvaged. There was not much.

Huge trees were uprooted, and the ones that were left standing caught flying pieces of debris. One beautiful two-story home, built before the turn of the century, was moved 20 feet off of its foundation and ruined.

There were 117 houses and 127 mobile homes destroyed, for a total of 244. Major damage was caused to 154 houses and 32 mobile homes — a total of 186. Minor damage was found on 266 houses and 31 mobile homes — or 297. That made a total of 727 homes in Jones County that were damaged or destroyed. In Clarke County there were four homes with major damage and 14 with minor damage. Those 18 added to the Jones total of 727 make a grand total of 745. If three people lived in each home, then 2,235 people suffered some degree of loss.

Flowers said that more than 1,000 Baptist men were on the scene during the first week following the tornado to begin the clean up operations. They came from all over the state. They all were from outside the county, for those who lived in the county were helping friends and didn't register through the association office.

"The Brotherhood Department has really been a blessing," Flowers said. The department is coordinating the clean up and rebuilding work. And the department was responsible for bringing in a Christian psychiatrist to help the people cope with their grief. Guy Reedy, pastor of First Church, Water Valley, where a tornado struck several months back, came in to share his own trauma and to help the pastors be better able to minister to their people.

The outpouring of response that came from outside the county was due to the fact that the Brotherhood Department had promoted and organized disaster relief for years and was able to draw from associations that had put into effect well-organized disaster relief teams, Flowers noted.



The building of Oak Grove Church, a black congregation in Jones County, lies in a pile of concrete blocks. There are efforts under way to rebuild the structure. The Oak Grove members have raised \$2,000 since the tornado wrecked the building on Feb. 28.

Brotherhood director Paul Harrell called on these associations, and the people responded. Jim Didlake, consultant in the Brotherhood Department, was on the scene in Jones County at 7 a.m. each day, Mrs. Flowers said.

One specific effort that is beginning to take shape is the rebuilding of the Oak Grove Baptist Church in the Jenkins Community southeast of Ellisville. That concrete block building of 1,800 square feet was totally destroyed. Didlake and Flowers

have been talking to the pastor, Ervin Gilmore, about the building being replaced by Mississippi Baptist churches. There will be a need for financial support and volunteer work crews to get it done. The church has raised \$2,000 since the tornado.

The tornado left sadness and misery in its wake. Thankfully, Mississippi Baptists were able and ready to move in and go to work instantly to help relieve the hurt to some extent.

## Guest opinion . . .

### Does God make mistakes?

By Robin Rowden Riggs

I remember seeing a movie a few years ago about a young man who suddenly discovers he has died! He argues diligently in heaven with various archangels about THEIR mistakes. They reluctantly admit their grievous error — the first since time began. They try to replace home on earth, causing a great deal of confusion.

In the movie, "Oh God," God admits to various mistakes, such as making the pit of an avocado too big.

Obviously, in the theaters God can make mistakes. But what about in real life?

On Thanksgiving weekend, 1985, we moved from St. Simons Island, GA., to Watkinsville, GA. This was a move of some 250 miles. Because of our continuous lack of funds, we moved ourselves — lock, stock, and barrel. My in-laws, as well as my brother, Ric Rowden, helped with the move. With muscles aching, we loaded and unloaded the van.

I was apprehensive about the move. I didn't know anyone in Watkinsville. My mother and two sisters were out of the country on a tour of the Far East. I was lonely. Tearfully I said good-bye to my only brother.

My first week went by fast. I enrolled my children in school. I unpacked box-after-box and tried to get ready for Christmas.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, in the wee

hours of the morning, our phone rang. My brother had been in a car accident. It was serious. Within minutes we were in the car driving to Savannah.

"Oh God, please, please," I cried. I held Ric's crumpled picture in my hand and rocked uncontrollably in the front seat.

Ric was only 28 years old. He was a successful attorney. He had a beautiful wife and an 18-month-old baby girl. He was my best friend!

Every few miles we stopped to call the hospital. Ric was still alive.

As dawn began to break over the rural Georgia countryside, I thought back to when my missionary father had died. He was only 34. Ric was 2 at that time.

The third phone call from about 70 miles away confirmed the worst. With tears in his eyes, my husband turned to me and said, "Robin, Ric died."

A multitude of family and friends gathered in Atlanta as Ric was buried next to our father.

As the caravan of cars wound its way to the cemetery, I turned angrily at my mother and said, "God made a mistake this time."

My precious mother, who had lost both parents, her only brother, a husband, and now her only son, said almost reverently, "Robin, God doesn't make mistakes."

I know that God did not kill my brother — the evil in the world did. I also know that God does not make mistakes — people do. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord" (Isa. 55:8).

We continue to grieve for our son, brother, husband, and father, because Ric was all of these. And more, he was a friend to so many.

I know we will never understand in this life. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:9).

Robin Rowden Riggs is a MK (missionary kid) who spent her early years in Israel. She is the daughter of Mrs. Earl Kelly.

## Retirees will be challenged

Actress Jeanette Clift George, singer Beverly Terrell, worship leaders, and Bible teachers will inspire Southern Baptist retirees to explore the theme "A Time to Live" during the 1987 Annuity Conference, May 4-8, at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, N.C.

George, founder and artistic director of the Houston-based After Dinner Players, will lead the morning watch

sessions. Terrell will present a concert and will assist Gale Dunn, minister of music at Timber Ridge Church, Duncanville, Tex., with conference music.

James Coggin, pastor emeritus of Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth, will be the conference preacher. Ralph Langley, pastor of First Church, Huntsville, Ala., will be the Bible teacher.

of gambling to go? We will find out.

The second reason is that the House, having once passed the bill which originated in its own chamber, is likely to pass whatever the conference committee comes up with. If it is the version as amended by the Senate, the Senate has already passed it.

Therefore, it seems as if the governor is the final hope. If Baptists in the state have ever opposed a bill, now is the time to do it. And the way to do it is to write or call the governor's office and let it be known that a veto is expected.

Besides the fact that this bill would become a pain in the neck for the entire state if it passes, it is also an effort to get a foot in the door for gambling of all sorts. Once the resistance is broken to even the slightest degree, the door will be opened and the rush will be on.

That's not just promotion talk to try to get a response. It can be counted on that if bingo comes into the state, pari-mutuel gambling on horse races and a state-run lottery will not be far behind.

Baptists will make that decision in the next few days.

'Tis education forms the common mind: Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined. — Pope

The closer Christmas gets to Christ, the closer they get to one another.

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## Baptist Men's Conference

### "Praying Men"

Saturday, March 21, 1987

Parkway Baptist Church Jackson, Mississippi

Coffee And Doughnuts

9:30 a.m.

Ministry Group Conferences

10 a.m.

Agricultural Missions Fellowship	Don Blasingame
Church Renewal Fellowship	Sidney Ellis
Construction Fellowship	Hiram Powell
Educational Missions Fellowship	Ron Kirkland
Jail/Prison Ministry	Charles Jones
Prayer Ministry	Guy Henderson
Volunteers On Mission	Estus Mason

\*Banquet — Activities Building

11:30 a.m.

Introduction	Jim Didlake
Blessing	Jehu Brabham
Music	"The Hometown Reunion" Quartet
Fellowships Reporting In	

General Session — Sanctuary

1 p.m.

Music	Gene Rester/Yvonne Irwin
Bold New Growth — Mississippi	Julius Thompson
Congregational Song	Gene Rester
Special Music	Gene Rester/Yvonne Irwin
Mission Message	Bill Hogue

\*Reservations for the Banquet must be made through the Brotherhood Department, 968-3800. Tickets are \$6.00 per person.

#### Expanded plan

## Annuity Board enters Phase II of promotion

The Southern Baptist Annuity Board has entered Phase II of promotion of the expanded Church Annuity Plan. Last week a letter with promotional materials went to nearly every minister in Mississippi.

As an adjunct to the national marketing effort, Mississippi Baptists' Annuity representative, William Sellers, has noted some significant differences in the Plan for pastors and other church employees in Mississippi.

To become operative Jan. 1, 1988, the expanded Plan features member contributions and matching contributions from both the church and the state convention.

In the fall of 1986, the expanded Plan was amended to provide major flexibility to members, churches, and the state convention.

Mississippi Baptists were among the first to adopt the original document for the expanded Plan in 1983. The Plan, as first proposed, anticipated a church signing a Cooperative Agreement promising to match \$2 for \$1 the contributions of pastor and other church staff members up to 10 percent of compensation. The member is encouraged to contribute 5 percent of his or her compensation (salary and housing). The state Convention would then match one-half of the church contribution up



A Pentecostal church building in Glade lies in a heap of lumber following the Jones County tornado.

The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

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## Home Mission Board declines to rescind women's policy

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP) — In a 44-24 roll-call vote, directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board defeated a motion to repeal a policy directors adopted in October that prohibits future financial support of ordained women serving as local church pastors.

There was no debate or discussion on the motion, offered by outgoing first vice chairman Marvin Prude, a retired refining company president from Birmingham, Ala.

In other actions, the directors elected new officers, tabled a new policy which would have prohibited appointment of missionaries who "speak in tongues," heard a report from a committee to search for a new president, authorized a \$10 million church bond issue and voiced concern about the effect of fund-raising efforts by Southern Baptist Convention agencies on missions giving.

The motion asking for the board to rescind its policy on ordination of women came during miscellaneous business.

Prude asked the directors to "repeal

the action taken at the October 1986, meeting and return to its former policy of funding all Home Mission Board positions based on qualifications of the applicant without regard to gender or ordination." Prude added the motion "is directed toward Church Pastoral Aid support for ordained women."

It was the first roll-call vote, in which board members' votes were part of the record, in recent history of the board. No vote count was taken and recorded in the minutes in October on the new policy.

The new policy reaffirms a longstanding policy that ordination is not required for appointment as a missionary by the board. The policy permits ordained women to serve as missionaries, chaplains, church staff members or in any role other than pastor of a church.

In another action during their March meeting, Home Mission Board directors tabled a proposed new policy which would have prohibited the appointment of any missionary who "speaks in tongues" either in private

or public prayer.

The policy was proposed by a personnel subcommittee appointed in August of 1986 to study the board's guidelines on appointment of people who are divorced, or who participate in "glossalalia" or "speaking in tongues." The study committee did not present any recommendations regarding appointment of divorced people.

After discussion, directors adopted a motion expressing reservations about fund-raising efforts among churches and individuals by other SBC agencies. The board warned of damage such fund raising does to the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget and to authorized mission offerings.

Directors authorized a request to be submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission that would enable the board to issue \$10 million in church bonds for sale starting sometime in May of 1987. Proceeds

(Continued on page 4)

## Acteens Convention set March 27-28 in Jackson

Acteens will be gathering at Parkway Church, Jackson, Friday night and Saturday, March 27-28. Mississippi Acteens Convention is designed for junior and senior high school girls and their leaders. Emphasis will be placed on discovering and using our spiritual gifts, missions opportunities, and various parts of the Acteens program.

Speakers for the overnight meeting will include Karen Simons, from WMU, SBC, and James Lewis of Tate Street Church, Corinth. Musicians for

night and will conclude at 3 p.m. Saturday. Preceding the Friday night session there will be a banquet honoring those who have received recognition as a Queen or above in Studiaet (the Acteens Individual Achievement Plan).

Registration fee for the convention is \$5 with an additional \$1 for those attending the Queens' banquet. Registration will cover refreshments and Saturday lunch. Reservations should be made to Acteens Convention, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.



Simons



Lewis

the weekend will be Eddie Thompson and Stacy Andrews from New Albany.

Among missionary representatives will be Mrs. Ben Nash, of Ghana, and Tree Clemmons, a Jackson pediatrician who served as a special project missionary to Korea.

Festivities will begin at 7:30 Friday



Andrews and Thompson





## The Jones tornado

The force of the tornado that hit Jones County is shown by the size of the trees blown over at the home of Charles Davis, pastor of Glade Church.

## Home Mission Board fails to change women's policy

(Continued from page 3)

from the sale of the bonds would be used to finance loans for new church buildings and sites.

Last year, the board issued and sold \$7.35 million in two church bond issues and received requests for purchase of another \$2 million in bonds, said Bob Kilgore, director of the board's church loans division.

Board members unanimously re-elected Clark G. Hutchinson, pastor of Eastside Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., as chairman. Other officers elected by the board were William J. Viel, pastor of First Baptist Church of Essex, Md., first vice chairman; Lawson Schroeder, Atlanta dentist, second vice chairman; Barbara Fain of Dunwoody, Ga., secretary; and Paulina Brown of Shelby, Mo., assistant secretary.

Acting on a study committee report, board members voted to keep the board's interfaith witness department within the missions ministry division where it is structured organizationally but to review the department's materials and activities to make sure a clear emphasis is given "to winning persons to faith in Jesus Christ." The board also authorized creation of a new staff position in the evangelism section to develop materials and provide leadership in personal evangelism among persons of other faiths.

Board members also heard a progress report from the search committee assigned to nominate a new president of the board to succeed William G. Tanner who resigned last June, but no action was taken.

## Clower, Martin on senior adult convention program



Martin

Clower

Two Mississippians will be program personalities during the Senior Adult Convention April 27-29 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Jerry Clower, of Yazoo City, a television personality and entertainer, will deliver the keynote address on Tuesday evening. Clower is a member of First Church, Yazoo City, and is well-known for his stories told in a humorous vein.

Irene Martin, from Harpersville, will be the pianist for the convention. She is a member of Harpersville Church and has served as pianist for senior adult Chautauquas at Ridgecrest and at Glorieta conference centers in North Carolina and New

Mexico for the past eight years.

She also has been pianist during Senior Adult weeks at Gulfshore and during other conference periods there and for evangelism conferences in the state.

Two former Mississippians are key figures in the organization of the convention. Horace Kerr, a native of Louisville, was senior adult minister at First Church, Jackson, and later served on the staff of the governor of the state in senior adult work before going to the Sunday School Board in Nashville. He is now the supervisor of the Senior Adult Section of the Family Ministry Department.

Kermit King is also involved in the planning of the convention. He was for 30 years the director of the Church Training Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He retired in 1982 at age 62 and became a consultant in the Family Ministry Department's Senior Adult Section.

This convention will be the first of its kind for Southern Baptists. Registration approaching 10,000 is expected from all over the nation, King said.

# Texans join in Australia Baptists' first evangelism conferences

By Orville Scott

SYDNEY, Australia (BP) — Texas Baptists reached across 10,000 miles to join hands with Australia Baptists in the first statewide evangelism.

The conferences in Melbourne and Sydney Feb. 19-25 drew about 1,200 people with about 200 of them making public commitments to share their faith in Christ and to lead their churches to experience revival.

Only about one in four Australians attends church weekly. "There are about 60,000 Baptists among the national population of 16 million," said

Bill Gray, Texas Baptist coordinator of Partnership Missions, "but they are determined to reach their country for Christ and have invited Texas Baptists to be their partners." He called the response at the first evangelism conferences "outstanding."

Australia Baptist leaders said the evangelism conferences helped prepare church members for the partnership crusades in the state of New South Wales July 20-Aug. 2, 1988, for which 1,000 Texas Baptist volunteers have been requested.

On Jan. 1, Texas Baptists began their second three-year partnership with Australia Baptists coordinated through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

About one-third of all Australians — 5.4 million — live in New South Wales. Sydney, with about 3.4 million people, is the state's largest city. Australia Baptists said the 1988 conferences will help lay the groundwork for Crossover Australia, a goal to reach every person in their nation with the gospel.

Harry Monro, coordinator for Crossover Australia, said the effort parallels Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust to reach every person on earth by the end of the century.

## Mantee native named Union University head

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP) — Hiran E. Barefoot, 59, vice president for academic affairs at Union University, has been elected president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention-affiliated school.

Barefoot has been interim president of the 1,500-student university since former president Robert Craig resigned in June 1986, to become president of East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas.

Barefoot, a native of Mantee, Miss., has been associated with the school

for 30 years, serving as teacher, department and division chairman, academic dean and, for the past 10 years, vice president of academic affairs.

He is a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss., and holds a doctorate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has done post graduate study at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, N.M., the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

## Nine youth conferences scheduled for Gulfshore

Young people in Mississippi have nine Youth Conferences at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly from which to choose this summer.

Theme of the conferences is "Lord I Want to Make a Difference . . . in my Life, in my Relationships, in my World."

Dates and pastors for the conferences are May 25-29, Jerry Pipes, leader of Complete Mess Ministries in Jackson; May 29-June 2, Dean Register, pastor of First Church, Gulfport; June 2-6, Eddie Cooper, pastor of First Church, Oxford; June 8-12 and June 12-16, Don Rhymes, minister of evangelism at First Church, Jackson; June 16-20, Jeff Powell, minister of youth at First Church, Starkville; June 20-24, Scott Werner of the Church Recreation Department Sunday School Board; and Aug. 8-12 and Aug. 13-17, Rocky Henriques, pastor of Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale.

Music leaders for the entire summer will be Mack and Shayla Blake of Ruston, La.

Activities of each conference include guided quiet time, Bible study, small group activities, worship, music, and organized recreation.

For each session, registration opens on day one at 1:30 with dinner at 5 p.m. Groups depart for home after breakfast on day five.

Topics of discussion during sessions include Developing a Healthy Self-Image, Strength and Talents, dating and friendships, family, communication, personal growth, discipleship,

and accountability.

Cost is \$93 per person. For reservations, write Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Miss. 39571.

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MC Concert Choir members include Ronnie Ball, Angela Benton, Teresa Burkes, Ginger Carruth, Sharon Cooper, Linda Fancher, Rachel Irwin, Mark Leggett, Judy Locke, Phil Smith, Robin Smith, Eugene Stockstill, Karleene Wallace, Allen Winstead, all of Jackson; Susan Banes, Billy Rayburn, both of Canton; Lara Burford, Gloster, La.; Jennifer Faul, Oakton, Va.; Gay Gandy, Beth Pepper, Melody Starling, all of Clinton;

Scott Green, Marianna, Fla.; Chris Harkin, Sao Paulo, Brazil; Jeff Harwood, Aleta Patronas, Mobile, Ala.; Charlotte Jenkins, Pearl; Charles Loflin, Michael Passons, Yazoo City; Neece Lummus, Tupelo; Jamie Meaders, Hickory; George Ramirez, Dallas, Tx.; Kim Rodriguez, New Orleans, La.; David Taylor, Orlando, Fla.; Suzanne Walker, Rolling Fork; Laura Whaley, Monroe, La.; and Lawrence White, Philadelphia.

## MC Concert Choir schedule interstate tour this month

The Mississippi College Concert Choir, directed by Richard Joiner, associate professor of music, will be on tour March 24-29 visiting two states.

The 36-voice choir is composed of undergraduate and graduate students from Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Texas and Sao Paulo, Brazil. They will present concerts of

sacred music in churches and schools in Mississippi and Tennessee.

Presentations in Mississippi will be Mar. 24, First Church, Horn Lake, 7 p.m.; Mar. 27, First Church, Grenada at 8:25 a.m. during the Mississippi Church Music Conference; Mar. 26, Bruce High School, 2 p.m.; Mar. 28, First Church, Columbus, 7:15 p.m. and

Mar. 29 services at 8:30 and 11 a.m.; Mar. 29, First Church, Rolling Fork, 6 p.m.

The programs will include the music of Gabrieli, Scarlatti, Handel, John Ness Beck, John Rutter and arrangements by Alice Parker. Accompanist for the choir is Billy R. Trotter, assistant professor of music.



Members of the Mississippi College Chamber choir from left: Row one: Susan Walker, accompanist, Jackson; Doran Henry, Mathiston, Lee Ann Cummings, Memphis, Tenn.; James Dupree, Mary Esther, Fla.; Debbie O'Neil, Jackson; Paul Smith, Brandon; Lucinda Penton, Zwolle, La.; Row two: Anne Mabry, Gulfport; Wolf Schmidt, Maintz, West Germany; Cathy Cole, Lafayette, La.; Joey Ward, Yazoo City; Tanya Riley, Starkville; David Price, Jackson; Angela Reedy, Canton; Row three: Andrea Lott, Clinton; Tommy Ashley, Hazlehurst; Holly Benzenhaff, Prentiss; D. J. Omarkhail, Yazoo City; Susan Horton, Forest; Gerald White, Yazoo City; and June Harris, Jackson.

## MC chamber choir schedules tour

The Mississippi College Chamber Choir will be traveling on its annual spring tour, March 24-29, presenting concerts in schools, colleges, and churches throughout the Southeast.

The 27-member choir, will visit Atlanta, Ga.; Tuscaloosa, Ala., and other cities in the area.

Mississippi concerts include Morton High School, Mar. 24, 9:30 a.m.; East Central Junior College, noon, Mar. 24; Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, Mar. 29, 8:30 and 11 a.m. services; Raymond Church, Mar. 29, 7 p.m.

Singing both a capella and accompanied choral repertoire of the 16th through the 20th centuries, the choir will be singing 14 programs in the six days of the tour.

In addition to the music of Bach, Mozart, Haydn, and Debussy, the choir will also be singing the choral music of James Sclater, professor of music theory and composition at Mississippi College. The choir is directed by James Glass, associate professor of music.

## S. W. Woodson, former MBC president, dies

S. W. Woodson, 79, a former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, died Mar. 13 in Jackson, Tenn.

He is survived by his wife Erma. Burial was to be at Highland Memorial Cemetery in Jackson.

Woodson was pastor of First Church, Columbus, 1947-1972 and was later named pastor emeritus.

He was president of the MBC in 1957 and 1958. He also served on the boards of Union University in Tennessee, and The Mississippi Baptist Children's Village, Blue Mountain College, Golden Gate Seminary, and Mississippi College. He served on the convention boards of both Tennessee and Mississippi.

Other pastorates included Whiteville Church, Whiteville, Tenn., and First Church, Humbolt, Tenn. He retired from Columbus to do pulpit supply and evangelistic work.

In 1967, First Church, Columbus was the top church in Mississippi in per capita gifts through the Cooperative Program.

Woodson, a graduate of Union University, earned the master of theology degree from Southwestern Seminary, and was awarded an honorary doctorate of divinity degree from Union.

## Morrison Heights, Clinton, begins interpreted services for deaf

Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, is now offering interpreted evening worship services for the hearing impaired every Sunday evening at 7 p.m.

Ken Alford, pastor, said that the hearing impaired, as well as others, are invited to share in the worship services, the fellowship, music, and preaching — at Morrison Heights.

For more information call or write Morrison Heights Baptist Church (924-5620), 201 Morrison Drive, Clinton Mississippi, 39056.

## Church Music Conference set March 26-27

The Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference will hold its annual meeting March 26 and 27, at First Church, Grenada.



Hawkins

Rick Munn, minister of music. This year's conference will feature Jim Hawkins, youth/adult consultant in the Department of Church Music of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. Hawkins will present a concert at the opening session and will conduct sessions dealing with special youth choir problems, motivational techniques, and church music drama. Specialists in keyboard and children's music will also be featured.

Presiding at the sessions will be president Chris Jenkins, minister of music at First Church, Gautier, Dot Pray of the Mississippi Church Music Department, is secretary of the conference; and Frank Stovall, head of the Music Department of Mississippi College, is vice president.

Other music to be presented to the conference will be offered by the Mississippi Singing Churchmen, Milfred Valentine, conductor; Mississippi College Concert Choir, Richard Joiner, conductor; and a concert offered by music faculty of Clarke College. Rick Munn will direct congregational music.

## Puppetry Guild to present puppet festival in Jackson

The Mississippi Puppetry Guild will present a Puppetry Jam at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry/National Agricultural Aviation Museum, 1150 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, on April 3 from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., and April 4 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Admission will be \$3.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children (\$1 for children 5 and under).

The puppet festival is partly funded by a grant from the Arts Alliance of Jackson/Hinds County.

Performances by a different puppet group will begin every 30 minutes during the festival. Some groups to take part will be Jackson Junior League, Puppet Arts Theatre, PVC Puppeteers, The Hilltop Puppets, Epilepsy Foundation, and Living Water Puppets.

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## The Mississippi Mission

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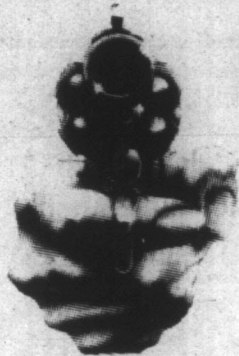
Each Church is considering a suggested minimum goal Great Commitment and maximum goal (Greater Commitment). The target range gives each church an idea of what is required to achieve success for The Mississippi Mission. Listed below are the exciting results of churches reporting this week!

Great Commitment (minimum target Subscribed)

Church	Goal	Pledged
Providence, Cleveland	7- 8,000	7,000
Utica, Utica	29-34,000	30,000
Walnut Grove, Bay Springs	1- 2,000	1,000
Midway, Pontotoc	5- 6,000	6,000
First Baptist, Indianola	48-57,000	50,000

CONGREGATIONAL GIFTS DIVISION TOTAL

PLEDGED TO DATE \$2,202,753.17!



## Intensive care

*Drugs are just as deadly  
as a loaded gun.*

*Don't take chances  
with your life*

### The need for professionalism

By Joe Stovall

The affects of alcohol and drug usage in our society is frightening. Homelife, health, employment, safety of the users, and the co-dependents are all affected. Who can help? Who is qualified to undertake the enormous task of dealing with such a complexity? Trained professionals with credentials that meet legal standards, who are aware of the general nature of addiction and who know and recognize their own limitations offer the best hope for help.

The professional can build bridges to the troubled person and is capable of gaining that person's trust. He helps the addict to construct or reconstruct his own bridges. These bridges extend to the family, the world and to the person's inner self. One then becomes rightly related to those around him and to God.

This is not simple and does not happen overnight, but the trained professional recognizes progress, can detect areas of denial, and can help the person with the bridge-building process. As with other areas, we know that with professionalism comes a fee for skills and services rendered. Money is involved, but what can be attained is priceless.

The need for professionals is great as one sees people of all ages experiencing extreme difficulties. It is important to have professionals who are trained to help persons deal with particular problems. Their knowledge, assistance, and support can offer immeasurable help and send one on the road to recovery and a better way of life.

Joe Stovall is a chaplain at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center.



### 1910 student gives check to Clarke

Pictured above is Herbert Bishop of Forest, accompanied by his wife, presenting a check to Jim Read, Dean of Clarke College. The check to Clarke College was Bishop's response to the 1986-87 Clarke College Annual Fund Campaign. Mr. Bishop is a 1914 graduate of Clarke College, having entered the college in 1910. This Clarke alumnus has not let the 73 years since his graduation from Clarke dim his enthusiastic support for his alma mater.

## Commitments to endowment campaign now total \$23,176,865, says Vickery

Commitments to the \$40,000,000 Mississippi Mission endowment campaign now total \$23,176,865. General Chairman Harry E. Vickery of Greenville made the announcement at last week's campaign committee meeting.

"God is in this campaign and we will succeed," said Vickery at the meeting. "We know every Baptist church in Mississippi will want to be a part of this effort that is so important to the young people of our state. We are making a strong statement for quality Christian higher education and child care with the results already in hand," he continued.

The faculty and staff of the institutions have pledged \$751,621 to date, more than double their goal. Trustees and campaign leadership have pledged \$3,348,010.28. Individuals and corporations have committed \$16,874,480.99. Churches have committed \$2,202,753.17.

The primary campaign emphasis now is with all 1,944 Baptist churches in the state. A team of 465 volunteers are seeking commitments from the churches. "We are very excited about the enthusiastic support Baptist churches are giving," Vickery said. Church support to date represents 14 percent of the \$16 million Congrega-

tional Gifts Division goal with only 5 percent of the churches reporting. Joe H. Tuten, pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, and former state senator William B. Alexander of Cleveland are division co-chairmen.

Vickery pointed out that an endowment campaign is different from a bricks and mortar campaign where immediate cash is needed. Noting that cash is still important, he added, "We hope individuals and churches will investigate innovative ways of giving such as donating appreciated securities, appreciated real estate, other personal property, life insurance and deferred gifts such as trust and bequests. These can provide advantages to both the donor and to our valued institutions. Corporate matching gifts can double or triple an individual's gift."

The Mississippi Mission was approved by the Mississippi Baptist Convention in November, 1984 to increase endowment levels at Mississippi College, William Carey College, Blue Mountain College, and The Baptist Children's Village. Active solicitation has been underway since the fall of 1985.

Funds will be used for quality teaching and child care, scholarships, program enrichment, and facilities support. The need for the campaign

was identified by a special task force appointed by the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission.

Current endowment income provides only 4 percent of operating expenses compared with 23 percent in 1940. The colleges' endowment per student is \$1,142, less than one-fifth the SBC average. The Children's Village endowment of \$490,488 is one-eighth the SBC average.

The Congregational Gifts Division assumes the responsibility to carry The Mississippi Mission to 1944 churches in the state. To facilitate organization the state has been divided into six regions. The list below indicates the positive response of churches across the state since the Feb. 26 issue.

**Region A:** Hopewell, Water Valley; First, Rosedale; Providence Cleveland.

**Region B:** Macedonia, Myrtle; Algoma, Algoma; Midway, Pontotoc; Hillcrest, New Albany; Fredonia, New Albany; First, Indianola.

**Region C:** Parkway, Kosciusko.

**Region D:** (none reporting).

**Region E:** New Hebron, New Hebron; Bluff Springs, Magnolia.

**Region F:** Flora, Flora; Utica, Utica; Walnut Grove, Bay Springs; Sylvarena, Raleigh; Salem, Raleigh; Ted, Louin; Briar Hill, Florence.

## Liberian convicted in missionary murder

SANNIQUELLIE, Liberia (BP) — A 15-member jury convicted Liberian Benjamin M. Morris March 6 of murdering Southern Baptist missionary Libby Senter and her 10-year-old daughter, Rachel.

The jury took about 30 minutes to return a verdict in the Nimba County courthouse after hearing five days of testimony from nine prosecution witnesses and from Morris. Circuit Court Judge Timothy Swope said he would pronounce a sentence sometime the next week.

Morris, 32, was arrested Nov. 27 near the Liberian border with Ivory Coast one day after Mrs. Senter, 47, and her daughter were found dead in their Yekepa, Liberia, home. He later confessed orally and in writing that he killed the two after Mrs. Senter intervened to prevent him from molesting Rachel. Mrs. Senter was from Shelby, N.C.

Southern Baptist missionaries, including the Senter family, had befriended Morris, a Liberian Baptist seminary graduate. They knew Morris was suspected of committing sex offenses in the past, but they had dismissed the accusations after coming to know him, said Bradley Brown, chairman for the group of 67 Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to work in Liberia.

In his own defense, Morris admitted in court to the murders. But departing from his earlier testimony, he said Senter hired him to commit them. Under questioning by the prosecuting attorney and the judge, Morris contradicted himself on the dates involved in the alleged hiring, Brown reported.

"Obviously the judge and the jury did not believe (Morris), because the jury came back in less than a half

hour with a unanimous guilty verdict," said John Mills, who directs Southern Baptist mission work in western Africa.

Under Liberian law, Morris could be hanged for the killings.

Brown, who attended the first two

days of the trial, said the proceedings had "engendered widespread interest." Some of that interest grew out of the much-publicized forgiveness husband and father George Senter expressed to Morris just before his initial confession.

Saturday, April 4, 1987

## Sunday School Seminar on Weekly Workers' Meeting

Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson

Saturday, April 4, 1987

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

for pastors, ministers of education, Sunday  
school directors, all age group workers

### Conferences

Preschool Department/Division Directors  
Preschool Workers  
Children's Department/Division Directors  
Children's Workers  
Youth Department/Division Directors  
Youth Workers  
Adult Department/Division Directors  
Adult Workers  
General Officers — Small Churches  
General Officers — Large Churches

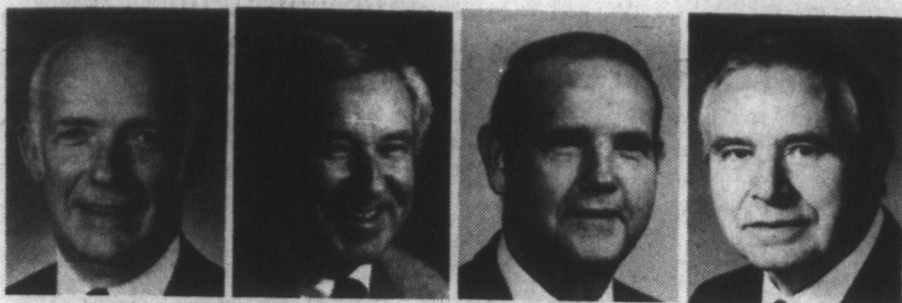
### Leaders

Peggy Ward  
Barbara Yarbrough  
Patti Edwards  
Susan Bryant  
Wisty Denton  
Joanie Andrews  
Gordon Donahoe  
Mike McCool  
James Webster  
Ken Dean

Sponsored by the Sunday School Department, Keith Wilkinson, Director

Saturday, April 4, 1987





Lloyd

Kerr

King

Tuten

## Kerr will headline program, senior adults at Gulfshore

Horace Kerr, manager for Senior Adult Work, at the Baptist Sunday School Board, will headline the Senior Adult Conference program May 11-15 at Gulfshore. Kermit King, acting Adult Consultant, Nashville, TN will be the resource person for Senior Adult Conference II and III, May 18-20 and 21-23. The theme of the conferences is "Coming of Age-the Autumn Years." Ray Lloyd, pastor of First Church, Starkville, will be the preacher for the first session with Leon B. Young, Meridian, as Bible teacher. Joe H. Tuten, Calvary, Jackson, will be both preacher and Bible teacher for conferences II and III. Music for the first one will be led by

John Renfro, Star, and for II and III by Genter L. Stephens, New Orleans.

A new special feature of the first will be an emphasis on crafts in the afternoons. Senior adults will be instructed in craft work with materials available to make their own creation. Ethel McKeithen of Jackson is making the arrangements. Senior adults are encouraged to bring their choice craft pieces for display.

Registration begins at 2 p.m. on the respective beginning days. Reservations should be made with Frank Simmons, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian 39571, with \$30 per person to be applied toward assembly costs.

## Mississippi Baptist activities

- Mar. 22 Start-A-Church Commitment Sunday (CoMi Emphasis)
- Mar. 23 State Vacation Bible School Clinic; Temple BC, Hattiesburg; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (SS)
- Mar. 24 State Vacation Bible School Clinic; FBC McComb; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (SS)
- Mar. 25 State Vacation Bible School Clinic; FBC, Madison; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (SS)
- Mar. 26 State Vacation Bible School Clinic; FBC, Greenwood; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (SS)
- Mar. 26-27 Church Music Conference; FBC, Grenada; Noon, 26th-Noon, 27th (CM)
- Mar. 27 State Vacation Bible School Clinic; Calvary BC, Tupelo; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (SS)
- Mar. 27-28 Ateens Convention; Parkway BC, Jackson; 7 p.m., 27th-4 p.m., 28th (WMU)
- Mar. 27-29 Leadership Training Conference; Gulfshore Assembly; 3 p.m., 27th-11 a.m., 29th (SW)
- Campers on Mission Rally; State Park, Oakland; 6 p.m., 27th-Noon, 29th (CoMi)

## Devotional Get to work

By Olyn Roberts

A bitter little story is told about a woman who tried for years, unsuccessfully, to get her husband to work. Finally he died and to everyone's surprise, she had his body cremated. Then she put his ashes in an hourglass and said, "Since I never saw him work when he was living, I was determined that I would watch his ashes work when he was dead."

There is not much place for a lazy person in society today with pace of living like it is. Paul said, "That if any would not work, neither should he eat" (II Thess. 3:10).

A Navy lad wrote, "Dear Mom, I joined the Navy because I liked the way ships were kept so clean and tidy, but I never knew until this week who keeps them so clean and

tidy, Love, Jimmy."

We will never have a better community by just wishing, but someone has to work at it. We will never have the best things in life without some labor on our part. Let us not be like the man being interviewed for a job when the foreman asked him, "Are you a clock-watcher?" Said the man, "Sir, I am a whistle-listener."

A man was seeking to inspire a teenager to go to work. Finally in desperation he said, "Son, I bet you a dollar you are the laziest person I have ever met." The boy said, "Mister, would you mind putting that dollar in my pocket for me."

The world owes none of us a living but we owe the world a life. Horace Mann once said, "Be ashamed to die until you accomplish some good for humanity." This is not done by being idle, so go to work.

Olyn Roberts is director of missions, Adams and Union Associations.

## Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

## "God understands Choctaw, too"

A Mennonite preacher came to Winston County to establish a church for Choctaw Indians. He obtained some money — I presume from other Mennonites — with which he proposed to build a housing development for Indians in the area of the church. Someone who opposed his plan tried to burn the church and threatened to take the preacher's life.

Since this Mennonite church was near the Crystal Ridge Baptist Church, the two pastors became friends. Mennonites, I understand, do not believe in returning violence for violence. They prefer to turn the other cheek. Thus this Mennonite pastor decided he would have to leave the county.

Since the Baptist pastor, Noel Palmer, had resigned at Crystal Ridge, the Mennonite pastor asked him if he would mind filling in for him at the Mennonite church until a new pastor could come. He didn't want to go away and leave his congregation with no counselor or preacher.

Brother Palmer told me about the wonderful experiences he and his wife, Dorothy, had in getting to know the Indian congregation of 25 or 30 as he supplied for a year there. (Two young men, Wycliffe Translators learning the Choctaw language, were with them part of the time.)

Palmer who had grown up in the Nanih Waiyeh community, had some Indian friends already; he said to his wife, "We will just go over there and be ourselves."

To the small rural church he wore his Sunday best just as he had to Crystal Ridge. So that they not think him pretentious, he told the people, "The Lord gave his best for me. I want to give my best to him. That's why I wear my best clothes to church."

At first, the Indians were a bit shy, but within two or three months they "just opened up," Brother Palmer said. "Both men and women began to come to me with their problems, for counseling, and to ask me questions about the Bible. I didn't teach them doctrine — Baptist or Mennonite — but just answered their questions in the best way I could. We just loved



Dorothy and Noel Palmer

them." He was with them in sad times, at funerals, and in better times, when they got together for meals of celebration.

Then one night four young men were killed in a car accident, one of them whose mother was a member of the Mennonite church.

This Indian mother had already had more than her share of trouble. Her husband had been run over by a car. Her five-year-old child had died in a car wreck. Another son she had lost when he committed suicide. Imagine her reaction to this tragedy.

Not long afterward, she called Brother Palmer to say that another of her sons was having trouble with his wife and threatening to kill himself.

"Brother Palmer, I have been praying all night," the women said. "I have given the devil all my kids that I'm going to. Will you please come and talk to him?"

Mrs. Palmer was in dialysis. "I'll come as soon as she gets off the kidney machine," the preacher told the woman.

The housing project for Indians had been completed; the fellow who said he was going to kill himself lived in one of the units. "Let me go in first," said the mother. She feared the worst

had already happened. But as she went through the house, her son came around the outside on his bike. He looked extremely depressed, and would say nothing. He only sat and looked down at the ground.

Brother Palmer told him, "The Lord loves you and wants to see you happy. It is the devil, not the Lord, who is causing you trouble. Turn your life over to God and defeat the devil."

"The Lord wants to save you. He's knocking at the door. You're going to have to open the door, and then the Lord will come in." The man did not reply, and did not look up; the preacher began walking toward his car.

"Is he still at the door?" the young man asked suddenly, and raised his head. Palmer came back and said, "Just tell the Lord what is in your heart." No reply.

"If you want to pray in Choctaw, the Lord understands that, too." Then the Choctaw words poured out in a steady stream, as tears rolled down the man's cheeks.

"Now, do you know that the Lord has saved you?"

"Yep!"

"Then do you want to praise him for that?"

Again the Choctaw words flowed, this time in praises to God.

## Missionary reunites ferry survivors

BRUGGE, Belgium (BP) — Within hours after a British ferry capsized off the Belgian coast March 6, Southern Baptist missionary Robert Cochran was counseling and praying with survivors and helping reunite separated family members.

Cochran, from Mount Pleasant, Texas, and his wife, Debbie, from Hialeah, Fla., were watching television at their home in Brugge, Belgium, that evening when they learned of the ferry disaster off the nearby port of Zeebrugge.

Rescue workers were transporting survivors to local hospitals, including the 950-bed Saint Jan Hospital in Brugge. Cochran contacted the

hospital and offered his services as a volunteer chaplain.

"We assumed most of the victims would be English-speaking, and we could be a liason, speaking both Flemish and English," Cochran said. The hospital accepted the offer.

About 40 survivors, mostly British, were brought to Saint Jan that night. The number had about doubled by the next day. Throughout the night, the missionary and the hospital's Catholic chaplain worked their way through the emergency room and the wards. Cochran comforted and counseled survivors, prayed with them and tried to locate and match up separated

relatives.

He encountered one British couple who had been separated from their adult daughter during the ferry's rapid capsizing. They had no idea whether she was alive or dead. "The Catholic chaplain and I found their daughter on the 14th floor" of the hospital, Cochran said. "She had abrasions and cuts and was hurt, but she was alive."

They brought the good news back to the couple, who were being interviewed by a TV news crew. Cochran relayed the message to the mother, who cried out to her husband on camera, "She's alive! She's alive!"



## For Vacation Bible Schools

# Homer L. Grice awards to be presented

The Homer L. Grice Associational VBS Award is presented to Baptist Associations for leading a significant number of the churches and missions in that Association to conduct and report a VBS. The Award is given if one of three criteria has been met:

A. 100 percent of the churches and missions within the Association have conducted and reported a VBS.

B. 95 percent of the churches and missions within the Association have conducted and reported a VBS.

C. 90 percent of the churches and missions within the Association have conducted and reported a VBS.

A special citation is also given if at least one church and/or mission within the Association have participated in a VBS Link-up Plan. Another citation is awarded if one or more churches report starting a New Sunday School as the result of a Backyard Bible Club or a Mission VBS.

The 1986 Awards will be presented during the 1987 State VBS Training

Clinics. These clinics will be conducted in five locations throughout Mississippi March 23-27. The associations that will receive these awards and citations are:

A. Associations with 100 percent reporting: George Association, Horace Glass, Director of Missions; Grenada Association, Arthur Leslie, Director of Missions; Humphreys Association, Jerald Welch, Director of Mission; Pike Association, Glen Williams, Director of Missions.

B. Associations with 95 percent reporting: Lincoln Association, Talmadge Smith, Director of Missions.

C. Associations with 90 percent reporting: Jones Association, Maurice Flowers, Director of Missions; Lamar Association, Douglas Benedict, Director of Missions; Marshall Association, Don Stanfill, Director of Missions; Oktibbeha Association, J. C. Mitchell, Director of Missions; Warren Association, A. Lavon Hatten, Director of Missions; Wayne

Association, Lynn Mackey, Director of Missions.

D. Simpson Association, Glen Schilling, Director of Missions, recorded a New Sunday School to begin as a result of a Backyard Bible Club. Lee Association, Bill Smith, Director of Missions, and Pontotoc Association, Wade Allen, Director of Missions, recorded a New Sunday School as the result of a Mission VBS.

E. Associations that will receive recognition for participating in a VBS Link-up Plan are: Carroll Association, Copiah Association, Covington Association, George Association, Greene Association, Grenada Association, Gulfcoast Association, Hinds Madison Association, Lauderdale Association, Lawrence Association, Leake Association, Lebanon Association, Lee Association, Leflore Association, Lincoln Association, Marshall Association, Pike Association, Pontotoc Association, Rankin Association, Simpson Association, Sunflower Association, Tallahatchie Association, and Tippah Association.



## Clarke College choir to go on tour

The Clarke College Choir and Singers, Newton, will leave for their 13th annual tour on March 27. These students, under direction of Clark Adams, chairman, Department of Music at Clarke, will perform in churches in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Accompanist is Mrs. Marian Thornton, Director of Preparatory Music Program at Clarke. The group will return to the campus on April 5.

## Names in the News



Providence Church, Cleveland, on Feb. 15 licensed right, Kellum (Buddy) Jennings, left, to preach the gospel. The pastor, Eugene Walden, presented Jennings with his license. Jennings is available for supply preaching. He can be reached by calling 843-9848 or 843-4877.

Mrs. Wilma Brewer was presented a plaque and an orchid corsage by West Ellisville Church, Ellisville, Feb. 22, in recognition of 37 years of perfect attendance to the Woman's Missionary Union.

In February 1950, West Ellisville became a mission of First Church, Ellisville. At that time a group of 11 ladies organized a circle of Baptist Women, as it was known at that time. The church was not officially chartered until October of that year. Other charter members present were Mrs. Pauline Welch, first president, Mrs. Elizabeth Robinson, and Mrs. Mildred Meador.

Charles Rook, Louisville, has recently been licensed by West End Church, Winston Association, to the

gospel ministry. He is a deacon and Sunday School teacher. Rook is available for supply, pastorate, and interim pastorate. He may be contacted by telephone at 601-773-8646, or 822 West Main St., Louisville, MS 39339.

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SCHEDULE

Effective

January 11,

1987

CST	SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
5:00	Plant Groom David Wade	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Lone Ranger Cartoon Coco Kid
6:00	Changed Lives One in the Spirit	Vegetable Soup Cope	Vila Alegre Cope	Sunshine Factory Cope	Carrasco-Lendias Cope	Infinity Factory Cope	Moody Science Series Family Foundations
7:00	Catch the Spirit This is the Life	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunday School Lesson Dawey and Goliath
8:00	Methodist Hour	Prime Timers Country Crossroads	Profess Great Churches	Word of Life In Concert	Human Dimension Great Churches	At Home With the Bible Invitation to Life	Sunshine Factory Guggenport Hotel
9:00	In Touch	Que Pass	Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis	Mickey Rooney	Reboop	Skippy the Kangaroo Lone Ranger Cartoon
10:00	Joy of Music Gloria	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Coco Kid Our World
11:00	ACTS Presby-terian Hour	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston Lesse	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston Lesse	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston Lesse	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston Lesse	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston Lesse	In Concert
12:00	The Baptist Hour	Vegetable Soup	Vila Alegre	Sunshine Factory	Carrasco-Lendias	Infinity Factory	Country Crossroads
1:00	Christopher Closeup The Sunday Selections	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Jim Houston Outdoors Super Handyman
2:00		Cope Daily	Cope Daily	Cope Daily	Cope Daily	Cope Daily	Plant Groom David Wade
3:00	Great Churches	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Dawey and Goliath Sunshine Factory
4:00	Joy of Music Gloria	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Guggenport Hotel Country Crossroads
5:00	ACTS Presby-terian Hour	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Jim Houston Outdoors
6:00	This is the Life Methodist Hour	Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis	Mickey Rooney	Dawey and Goliath	Lone Ranger Cartoon	Skippy the Kangaroo Lone Ranger Cartoon
7:00	Changed Lives	Profess	Word of Life	Music Is	First Things First	Prime Timers	Coco Kid David Wade
8:00	One in the Spirit Catch the Spirit	Great Churches	In Concert	Great Churches	Invitation to Life	Country Crossroads	In Concert
9:00	Baptist Hour Evening Worship	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Moody Science Series Family Foundations
10:00	Christopher Closeup Sunday Selection	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Sunday School Lesson This is the Life
11:00		Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis	Mickey Rooney	Reboop	Que Pass	Christopher Closeup Westbrook Hospital
12:00	Gloria	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Our World In Concert
1:00	This is the Life	Profess	Word of Life In Concert	Music Is	First Things First	Prime Timers	Super Handyman
2:00	Methodist Hour	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Plant Groom David Wade
3:00	The Baptist Hour	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Moody Science Series Family Foundations
4:00	Christopher Closeup Super Handyman						Sunday School Lesson Skippy the Kangaroo

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## MRLC to honor Baptist pastor

Robert Lee West, pastor of Mount Eva M.B. Church of Terry and Jones Chapel of Carthage, will be one of four individuals honored at the 13th annual banquet of the Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference, 7 p.m., March 30, at the Holiday Inn, Downtown, Jackson. Others honorees will include Beverly W. Hogan, Sister Marilyn Aiello, O.P., M.D., and Sister Anne Brooks, S.N.J.M., D.O.

Theme of the banquet is "Called to

Care — Being Our Neighbor's Keeper," recognizing the contributions of individuals involved in health and children's issues.

Tickets for the banquet are \$10 and may be obtained from any MRLC member or by calling the MRLC office, 981-6752.

Founded in 1970, the MRLC is an interfaith organization and statewide forum for religious leaders, both lay and clergy.

## Brazilian missionary dies in wreck

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A pioneer Brazilian missionary to Portugal was killed in a bus wreck March 6 while raising funds for her country's Foreign Mission Board.

Herodias Cavalcante was traveling in Brazil, promoting the Brazilian Baptist counterpart of the Southern Baptist Lottie Moon offering, when she was killed, said Thurmon Bryant, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board spokesman. She was the sister

of Alice de Oliveira, the lawyer who represents the three missions of the Foreign Mission Board in Brazil. Both women had traveled in the United States. In 1980 Cavalcante spent two months working with Portuguese-speaking people in Massachusetts.

Cavalcante had commented a few days before her death that she wanted to "die with her boots on promoting missions for Brazil," and "that's what she did," Bryant said.

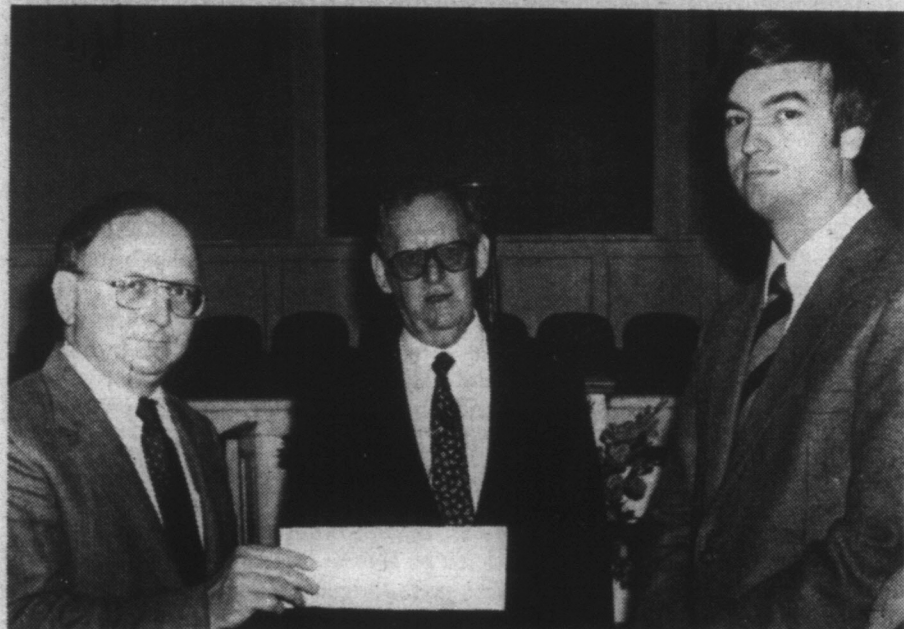


# Just for the Record



First Church, Leakesville, held groundbreaking services on Feb. 1, for a new education/activities building. The building will include classrooms, a game room, restrooms, kitchen, office and storage rooms, and a fellowship hall. Taking part in the groundbreaking ceremony were (left to right) Horace Glass,

director of missions, Greene Association; Building Committee members — Mrs. Nina Huff, Mrs. Stuart Rounsaville, Don West, and Jarvis Dearman; the general contractor — James Beech; and the pastor — Michael Perry.



Collins Church held a note burning ceremony Feb. 22, signifying final payment on its new education building and renovation of an existing building. Joe Ratcliff, center, pastor of Collins Church, observes as W. B. (Billy) Todd Jr., left, chairman of the Building Committee, and Eddie Gibson, chairman of deacons, prepare to burn the note. The new building cost was \$246,244.80. Renovation cost was \$33,000. The late W. W. Easley II of Jackson was architect for the new building, which includes a fellowship hall and kitchen on the ground floor and classrooms on the upper floor. Open house was held Oct. 21, 1984. The \$75,000 above existing building fund needed to satisfy indebtedness was borrowed. Now that amount has been paid and it was this note burned in the ceremony.

Eight members of North Greenwood Church are the first recipients of the diploma for the study of Parenting by Grace.

Parenting by Grace is a part of the course of study in LIFE-Lay Institute For Equipping. The diploma is one of the series in Discipline and Spiritual Growth.

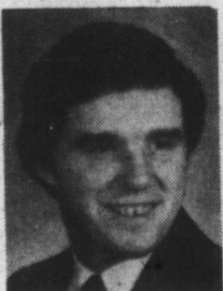
There will be a meeting to organize Jackson area chapter of the Mississippi Baptist Nursing Fellowship on Tuesday, March 24, at 7 p.m. at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. All RN's, LPN's and student nurses are invited to attend. For more information call Jerry Ray at 978-1196.

## Staff Changes

Fifteenth Avenue Church, Meridian, has called Brad Jones as its first minister of music, children, and youth. Jones is a graduate of William Carey College. He goes to Fifteenth Avenue from Chunky. He and his wife, Tammy, are expecting their first child in April.

### Senior Adult Corner

The Joy Club, senior adult group of Calvary Church, West Point, held its monthly meeting with 19 members present. Mrs. Regina Sentell of Clay County Medical Center spoke on the Swing Bed program at the hospital and its aid in recovery from illness. A. R. Parks is group president.



Potts has resigned as pastor of Bluff Springs Church, effective March 8, to become pastor of Providence Church, Meadville. He has served as pastor of Bluff Springs since September of 1984. He is a native of Kentwood, La., and a graduate of Mississippi College, and will receive a master of divinity in pastoral ministries degree from New Orleans Seminary in May of this year. He is married to the former Holli Knighton of Centreville.

On its 10-acre site on Henderson Road in southwest Jackson the congregation of Southern Hills Church will celebrate the 21st anniversary of its constitution on Sunday, March 22. The church was constituted on the fourth Sunday in March, 1966. Pastor David T. Cranford has been the church's only pastor. He led them first as a mission and then for 21 years has served as pastor. Following anniversary services on Sunday morning, March 22, there will be an old-fashioned dinner-on-the-grounds.

## Revival Dates

First, Yazoo City: Mar. 22-25; services Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; hot drinks and donuts served after morning services; evangelist, Earl C. Davis, pastor, First, Memphis; guest musicians, Bob and Jan Salley of Pleasant Hill, La.; James F. Yates, pastor.

Good Hope (Leake): Mar. 22-25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Sunday worship, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday dinner at noon; Church Training at 6; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Walker, pastor, First, Carson, evangelist; Mark Gunn, Brandon, minister of music, music leader; Odell Tebo, pastor.

Morgan City: Mar. 22-25; nightly at 7; Charles Jones, preaching; Andy Cummings, music leader; James A. Walters, pastor.

Valley Hill, Greenwood: Mar. 22-27; Grady Crowell, director of missions, Clarke County, evangelist; Joseph Sansing, music director; Sue Avant, pianist; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Rickey W. McKay, pastor.

Woodland Hills, Jackson: March 22-25; Paul Powell, pastor, Green Acres, Tyler, Tex., evangelist; Fritz Smith, Tyler, Tex., music evangelist; Sunday, 10:45 a.m., 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 12:15-12:45 p.m., 7 p.m.; Bill Fuller, pastor.

Puckett, Puckett: March 22-27; Sunday, 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 12 noon, 7 p.m.; lunch served weekdays; Richard Michael Stowell, New Era, Monterey, La., evangelist; Alvin Doyle, pastor.

## Church organ workshop to be held Mar. 24

An Allen church organ workshop will be held Mar. 24, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Roseberry Piano House in Hattiesburg.

Guest clinician for the workshop will be Durr Walker Jr., organist at First Church, Brookhaven, and chairman of the Division of Humanities at Copiah-Lincoln Jr. College.

A free luncheon will be served to all those attending the workshop. Interested persons should contact Roseberry Piano House, P. O. Box 15206, Hattiesburg, MS 39402 or phone 601-264-2220 to make reservations.

## Revival Results

Southside, Jackson: Donnie Guy, evangelist; Jasper Butler, music evangelist; 18 professions of faith, four by letter; Donald N. Bozeman, pastor.

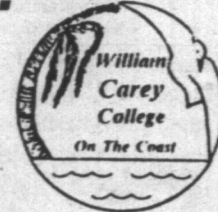
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# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

## "Thy will be done," Jesus prayed in the garden

By Robert M. Hanvey

Luke 22:39-53

Do you have difficulty with God's will in terms of understanding and doing it? You are familiar, of course, with the statement that it is God's will that no man should perish, and from that perspective when we understand God's will, we ask ourselves a question, "What can I do to help God's will come about in this earth?" No doubt that was Jesus' concern when he said in Luke 22:42, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done."



Hanvey

The entire focal passage of Luke 22:39-53 deals with the concern which Jesus had about the doing of the Father's will. We want to do God's will, as did Jesus, in spite of difficulty and in spite of the way we may feel. The supreme fulfillment in life lies in the doing of God's will.

Our concern in this lesson is that we evaluate our response to God in light of Jesus' response and commit ourselves to the doing of God's will

### UNIFORM

in various and specific ways as we conduct our lives. In the focal passage, Jesus asked his disciples to pray that they might not enter into temptation. In other words, communion with God allows one to be free to give expression to life. Understanding God's will adds that kind of strength, keeping one from temptation.

Jesus prayed that he would not suffer while upon this earth, and you and I have perhaps asked God at various times, "Lord, don't let us suffer, if it is your will." It may be that we suffer out of those things induced in our lives with the harm that we bring to our lives. We sometimes do not suffer by just the simple doing. Someone has suggested we might find suffering or difficulty in simply doing ministry, for there might be those who oppose us, there might be those who persecute us, or there might be some difficulty in offering one's self in mission service. Some people might jeer or sneer or laugh at us for doing so. Even giving to missions through our financial means might cause us some difficulty. Some might ask, "Well, why

do you do that?" or "What concern is it of yours that somebody across the seas hears about Jesus Christ?" You could name others, I am sure. In the conduct of the teaching or the studying of this lesson, understand how we might be in difficulty for the doing of God's will and yet, when we apply our difficulties they seem minimal in view of the fact that Jesus gave his life for the doing of the will of the Father. But you and I, much like the disciples, need to pray so that we do not fall into temptation.

We need to agonize in prayer, as did Jesus while in the Garden of Gethsemane. The Bible teaches us that while he was there under such great load of care and difficulty that the sweat was as drops of blood. Perhaps it is that we do not totally understand all that might be contained in that statement, but Jesus agonized in prayer about the accomplishment of God's will. I believe, for your life and for mine, there are those times when we, like him agonize over the doing of God's will, but when we yield and when we surrender, there is peace in doing what God wants us to do.

You recall, too, that in this particular account Jesus was taken captive by the authorities and

he rebuked the chief priests, temple officials, and others for coming to arrest him as they did. He wanted them to remember that he had been with them on previous occasions and they did not do him this way, or take him in this manner. But God's will was in the stage of being done and being accomplished as Jesus yielded himself to death on the cross.

When we consider Jesus' call to his disciples to pray, we must consider that Jesus calls us to prayer. As we respond to God's will we must evaluate where we are and what we are doing with our life's circumstances. Betrayal of Jesus by Judas can help people understand that we do not desire to betray, but we desire to follow the Lord. Jesus, of course, responded in such a way as to allow the people to do with him as they wished because he knew he was doing God's will for his life regardless of the circumstances, regardless of the suffering, regardless of that which would come his way.

Knowing and doing God's will is a precious commodity in one's life. God's will is to be sought and followed on a daily basis. Life is sweet and full when God's will is accomplished.

Robert Hanvey is pastor, First, Hazlehurst.

## God, the loving Father, values every person

By Nathan L. Barber

Luke 15:11-32

Remember now that this parable of the loving father (not the prodigal son) was the last and most graphic of three parables which Jesus



Barber

told on this occasion. The setting for the parables was yet another encounter of Jesus with the Pharisees and scribes. The tax-gatherers and other sinners had come to Jesus to listen to him. The Pharisees and scribes grumbled and said, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

The purpose of each parable is to demonstrate that every person is important to God (see verses 7, 10, and 24). Each of the three parables also emphasizes the pleasure of God when one sinner repents. In the first two parables Jesus pictured the joyous response which the Pharisees and scribes should have had toward repentant sinners. In the third he depicted the reality of their actions.

If these religious leaders had not yet discerned the meaning of what Jesus was saying, this

### LIFE AND WORK

climactic third parable would make it crystal clear.

The loving father is a picture of God with his love and mercy and grace. The sinners who listened to Jesus and even ate with him were represented by the younger son and brother. The Pharisees and scribes are obviously being compared to the older son and brother.

There are two sons in the parable from beginning to end. Each son had traveled to his own distant country. The younger son left home to discover and eventually reject his country of independence. His country of choice proved to be most beautiful when viewed from a distance, and far more expensive than he had ever imagined. The famine which occurred while he lived in Independence was, according to residents, a very common event. Of course it was this kind of information which they wanted to keep hush hush.

Now broke and in need (a real blow to his independent image), the younger son soon realized that it was pride which had kept him in a

country where he would eventually destroy himself. Knowing the personal humiliation which would be involved in going back home as a servant instead of a son and recognizing his sin against God and his father, he started toward home on a long and difficult trip. His apology was rehearsed many times. He yearned for the relationship with his father to be restored.

The loving father, desiring a restored relationship even more than his son, saw his son coming while he was still a long way off. He felt compassion for his son and went to meet him privately. What a meeting! It was nothing like the prodigal expected. Before the young man could finish his prepared apology, the father, recognizing his son's willingness to become a servant, restored him to the family instead! A celebration was held "for this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found."

The older son never left home, and yet his country of choice was just as distant and self-destructive. He lived in the country of legalism. Upon his little brother's return home, the older son became angry and refused to rejoice. The

loving father, desiring that his family be united rather than divided, sought the older son while he, too, was still a long way off. Both sons were his and he loved them both.

After all, remember what your son did, he told his father. And he reminded his father that no celebration was given in his honor even though he had "slaved" these many years for his father and had never disobeyed his command. But that remark exposed the older son for what he really was . . . a slave looking for payment. He was completely self-righteous. He could see no flaws; he was the model son. His father's younger son would do well to follow his example.

To both sons the father's words were kind and his attitude long-suffering. The younger son had come home and was sitting at his table; the older son only grumbled because the father had included the younger son in the family. The younger knew both sonship and brotherhood and had reason to rejoice. The older knew only slavery and had never come to appreciate the value of an individual life.

Nathan Barber is pastor, First, Bay St. Louis.

## Jesus crucified: ultimate expression of love

By Charles Wesley

John 19:17-22, 26-30, 32-36

In a day when criminals are executed by lethal injection, we are stunned by the cruelty of a crucifixion. The one being crucified was required to carry his own cross to the site of his crucifixion. Then he would be stripped of his clothes, stretched out on the cross, and nailed to the cross. The upright piece of the cross would be placed in a hole in the ground. Thirst would be unbearable. The muscles would develop severe cramps and death would come by suffocation. Death came slowly with extreme suffering. In the case of Jesus, there was also the emotional and spiritual agony of bearing the sins of the world and the rejection of the Father (Matt. 27:46). We are not able to fully comprehend the suffering that Jesus endured in order to pay the penalty for our sins. Jesus suffered and died for us.



Wesley

Pilate placed an inscription on the cross of Jesus which read, "Jesus, the Nazarene. The

### BIBLE BOOK

King of the Jews" (John 19:19; NASB). The inscription was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. Hebrew was the language of Jews and of their religion. Greek was spoken throughout the Greco-Roman world and was the language of culture. Latin was the official language used for government documents. Herschel Hobbs makes this observation: "Institutional religion rejected Jesus. Institutional culture ignored him. And institutional government crucified him." All are guilty of crucifying God's Son. Because of our sins we share in the guilt of killing Jesus. However, the inscription also signifies that the death of Jesus is for all people. Everyone who accepts the work of Jesus on the cross for their salvation can experience full forgiveness for their sins. As far as Pilate was concerned, the inscription may have been a mockery or a simple statement of the charge brought against Jesus. But the spiritual significance is that the death of Jesus is for everyone.

Even while enduring the intense suffering of the crucifixion, Jesus expressed his concern for

others. A small group of women, including Mary, the mother of Jesus, along with one of his disciples, were standing near by watching the event. Jesus spoke to his mother and to "the disciple whom he loved." The disciple was entrusted to provide for the needs of Jesus' mother. We are told by John that the disciple carried out the responsibility entrusted to him. This is probably the writer informing us of his own actions in providing for the mother of Jesus. As we marvel at the concern Jesus had for his mother while he was dying on the cross, we should recognize our responsibility always to be sensitive to the needs of others.

The love Jesus expressed to his mother from the cross represents the love expressed to everyone from the cross. No one can doubt the love God has for sinful people as they discover the meaning of the cross. The ultimate expression of love is to die for one's friends (John 15:13). Yet, Jesus laid down his life even for his enemies.

One with an understanding of Old Testament prophecies will see the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the death of the Messiah. The cry, "I thirst," fulfills one of those prophecies (Psalm 22:14-15). This reminds us that

the crucifixion of Jesus is the fulfillment of God's plan for redeeming sinful people. However, this cry was not made just to fulfill a prophecy. Rather, the cry was from One experiencing physical suffering. Previously Jesus refused drugged wine to ease the pain of the crucifixion (Mark 15:23). However, Jesus now accepts the sour wine from one of the soldiers in order to clear his throat for a clear shout of victory.

Next, Jesus shouts, "It is finished!" Jesus completes God's purpose to provide the means of salvation for every person. Nothing else needs to be accomplished for our salvation. We do not need to add religious rituals or good works to the work of Christ in order to receive salvation. On the contrary, we should accept by faith the death of Christ to save us. After the cry, "It is finished," John declares that Jesus "bowed his head, and gave up his spirit." The word "gave" means that Jesus voluntarily gave his life to provide for our salvation. Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Charles Wesley is pastor, Morrison Chapel, Cleveland.



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A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Your thoughtful gift will not only help assure every Village child a new "Easter outfit" but can be a contribution toward underwriting our annual clothing and shoe budget.

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# Baptist Record

## Volunteers respond

### "The storm isn't over"

By Tim Nicholas

Thirteen days after the tornado wiped out a piece of Jones County, a woman phoned Jones Baptist Director of Missions Maurice Flowers. "I don't know if I'm going to make it or not," she sobbed. Said Flowers to a group of pastors, "she dreams it . . . lives it all day long."

This was a woman whose home suffered damage in the Feb. 28 twister that killed seven persons and did millions in damage. Her home can be repaired, as can the rest of the county property, but her emotional trauma will need to be dealt with for months to come.

"The storm isn't over," said Guy Reedy, pastor of First Church, Water Valley, who visited the county a week ago to discuss with the ministers the problems that persist after a disaster.

"We need to share this from the pulpit," said Flowers, "There will be problems."

Life shaking experiences such as surviving a tornado can also be life changing experiences. Being interviewed, a woman told of her trailer swaying in the wind and of her praying. Asked if she was a Christian, she said no. At that point, Myrick Church Pastor Bobby Hood explained the meaning of a profession of faith in Jesus Christ. There in the Myrick Baptist Church disaster center, the woman prayed to receive Christ as her lord and savior. And Hood made an appointment to meet with her and her husband later that evening.

Myrick church volunteer cheered when Hood announced the birth of a new Christian — that day was also her

birthday — and went back to their labors.

Their labors were hefty — they were operating a disaster center offering clothing and groceries to those devastated by the tornado. The church family suffered little in the twister (one member lost a grandson), so they were able to offer their ministrations to the community around them.

Hood, with his wife Sue, was caught in the tornado that Saturday morning — their back windshield blew in on them and power lines fell across the car. Mobile homes beside where they parked were blown across the road — barely missing the car.

Their ministry began immediately as they searched the trailer park for victims — ten of the 12 trailers in the park were knocked down. The new Christian woman was in one of the few surviving trailers.

The church started feeding people. Mar. 1, they used 75 loaves of bread to make sandwiches for victims. Since then, they've been cooking Red Cross donated food and serving about 30 at the church and 150 in the community three meals a day, seven days a week.

After the tornado, Hood noticed a warehouse standing empty, but couldn't find the owner, Billy Houston. From the pulpit he asked who knew him. A member after church went to the man's mother who gave the church a key and they were in business.

The warehouse was quickly filled to capacity with clothing. Hood suggested that Baptists should go to their closets, take clothes that they still

wear, and label them by size — to save hours of volunteer time in sorting and sizing donations.

A Waynesboro department store sent \$7,000 in merchandise off the racks. French Camp Academy brought a van load of clothing and food. Oneal Wood of Golden put together a van load of furniture, dishes, and blankets which were given out in one morning. And Allen Cannery of Arkansas donated a truckload of food which was trucked in by Lewis Grocery.

Myrick church members, who number around 400, turned out to help. Hood said 25-30 were constantly involved in the center and the feeding program. He also said that the place, lights, and water, were all donated "so far." Others from other churches were working with the Myrick members. Helen Pulling of Louisiana was sorting clothing alongside Darlene Sherk of Pennsylvania. Their husbands were out "somewhere" they said, cleaning up someone's yard. The Sherk, members of the Church of the Brethren, had called their church's home office to see if there was a place they could help out. Pulling's husband is an old friend of Maurice Flowers. Both couples were assigned to the Myrick operation.

Most churches have responded to the needs following the disaster. More than 1,100 volunteers from outside Jones County had been on the job in the first two weeks, and innumerable Jones County Baptists were working day and night to help. Three hundred volunteers were expected this past Saturday. The association had received \$18,000 in donations from all sources in the first two weeks.

Bethel Church paid to replace a member's roof. They were having a workday Saturday to clean up the churchyard.

Lawn Haven Church already had an estimate of damages — \$26,873 for the church building, and \$11,048 for the parsonage. Pastor Evon Ingram said he had just finished delivering 30 kids home from a lock in the night before. They'd been in the damaged church. Nearly half the 80 families in the church suffered damage of some sort. "It's going to be devastating to our church program," said Ingram. Ingram — and other pastors — from the pulpits are describing the symptoms of shock to their congregations. "Help is available," they are saying.

"I tell my people more than I ever have before that I love them," says Ingram. "I think it's important at this time."

Learn from the mistakes of others — you can't live long enough to make them all yourself.



Amy West of Crossgates Church, Ron Swindall of Sandersville Church and BSU president at Jones Junior College, and Tracy McCarty of Crossroads Church help label canned goods donated for disaster victims at the Myrick Church disaster center.



Bobby Hood, right, talks with a group in front of the disaster center Myrick Baptist Church set up after the tornado that knocked down a piece of Jones County.



Mary Walters and Thelma Donald, members of Myrick Church, sort donated clothing at the disaster center. Said Thelma, "I've been working at it since it (the tornado) happened. I've rocked babies while the parents . . . to cooking."

## Rankin library organization plans banquet

The Rankin County Associational Church Media Library Organization will hold its annual TACMO banquet on March 26 at 7 p.m. at the McLaurin Heights Church, 404 Pemberton Drive, Pearl.

Keith Mee, church media library consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, will be the keynote speaker. Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Lack of the host church will provide special music.

There will be no cost to guests for the banquet meal. However, reservations are necessary, and should be made by calling 939-2182 or 968-3800, Ext. 3892. March 23 is deadline for reservations.

Those invited include pastors, church staff members, church media library workers or committee members, and other interested persons and their spouses.



Karen Wilson of Spangford Church in Wayne County, delivers hot lunches to disaster victims and workers in the devastated zone of the county. She was working with driver Randall Presley of Myrick Church. Even the second week after the tornado, the church was delivering about 150 meals and feeding 25-30 at the church three times a day. The Red Cross provided the food which the church cooked and served.

Baptist Record

005-DTM 291  
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March 19, 1987

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